

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 573

By Wirgau

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the 2011 Henry County High School football team for winning the TSSAA Class 5A BlueCross Bowl championship.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those student athletes who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as true sportsmen of whom all can be proud; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2011 Henry County High School (HCHS) football team have proven themselves to be the ablest of competitors and, as such, deserving of the highest regard; and

WHEREAS, the HCHS Patriots have counted among their members some of the most talented young athletes Tennessee has produced; and

WHEREAS, under the astute leadership of Coach James Counce, who was recently named the 2011 Titans High School Football Coach of the Year, the team propelled itself to an undefeated 15-0 record in the regular season; and

WHEREAS, with the pressure of many close calls in past years but no trips to the state finals, Coach Counce and the 2011 team broke through that roadblock when they knocked off Hendersonville High School on November 25 to gain a spot in the coveted TSSAA Class 5A BlueCross Bowl for the first time in the school's 42-year history, where they faced the Powell High School Panthers on the field of Tucker Stadium at Tennessee Tech University on December 2; and; and

WHEREAS, the HCHS Patriots battled continuously against the Powell Panthers (14-1) in the state championship. The game was tied 14-14 at the half with both teams displaying great defense in the second half, which was scoreless until late in the fourth quarter; and

WHEREAS, the Patriots secured a game-winning 32-yard field goal by Kyler Ainley in the final two minutes of the game, giving HCHS a 17-14 lead, and they clinched the championship in the final thirty seconds of the game when they recovered a Powell fumble caused by a sack and strip, ending an already-stellar season on an incredibly high note; and

WHEREAS, the Henry County Patriots football team, in both victory and defeat, has displayed the tenacity, camaraderie, and skill befitting one of the State's finest athletic teams; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the 2011 Henry County High School football team, not only for the team's championship win but for the players' superior sportsmanship and the joy they have brought to their fellow students and the people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the members of the 2011 Henry County High School football team and Coach James Counce for their heralded success on the football gridiron and extend to them our best wishes for future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.